

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG, ICAO, EAIR
SUBJ: ICAO: PROBLEMS WITH CANADIAN GOVERNMENT

1. AT CLOSE OF COUNCIL MEETING, SWEDEN REP (ONE OF MOST CONSERVATIVE) READ WELL-PREPARED STATEMENT SEVERELY CRITICIZING CANADIAN AUTHORITIES AT TWO MONTREAL AIRPORTS AND AT U.S. BORDER FOR QUESTION/INSULTING/DETAINING ICAO COUNCIL REPS (AND AD HOC DELEGATIONS) MOST OF WHOM CARRY DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS AND/OR DIPLOMATIC VISAS. STATEMENT OPENED SERIES INTERVENTIONS DESCRIBING VARIOUS OUT-RAGEOUS INCIDENTS AND ANECDOTES.

2. CANADIAN REP RESPONDED BY BLAMING ICAO FOR MANY YEARS OF NO PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM, AND NEGLECT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS. COUNCIL MEMBERS INTERRUPTED WITH GROANS AND POUNDED ON TABLE. UK POINTED OUT THAT ONLY THING INVOLVED WAS IMPLEMENTATION OF CANADA/ICAO AGREEMENT GIVING DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES TO ICAO DELEGATIONS.

3. FYI: THIS IS LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN GROWING DISSATISFACTION WITH GOC ATTITUDE OF CANADIANS GENERALLY (QUEBEC) TOWARD DIPLOMATS. POLICE ARE KNOWN FOR GOING OUT OF WAY
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TO GIVE PARKING/TRAFFIC TICKETS TO DIPLOMATIC TAGS (EVEN WHEN NO VIOLATION OR SITUATION MARGINAL). COUNCIL REPS ENTERING INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS (WHO MAY HAVE BEEN HERE FEW YEARS AND GONE THROUGH SEVERAL TIMES) ARE SENT BY CANADIAN OFFICIALS TO IMMIGRATION OFFICE WHERE THEY HAVE TO "PROVE" THEY HAVE A "SOURCE OF INCOME" WHILE IN CANADA. ALTHOUGH

CARRYING DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGE THEY ARE ASKED OFFENSIVELY ABOUT THINGS THEY MIGHT BE BRINGING IN, ETC. THOSE MENTIONING INCIDENTS IN COUNCIL INCLUDED BRAZIL, NIGERIA, INDONESIA, CENTRAL AMERICA. ALTHOUGH USREP DID NOT SPEAK, INCIDENTS EARLY IN ASSIGNMENT LED TO SENDING PERSONAL CAR BACK TO STATES, AND TAKING SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS WHEN TRANSITING AIRPORTS. END FYI

4. DURING COUNCIL INTERVENTIONS, US OFFICIALS AT CANADA/US BORDER WERE CITED BY COMPARISON AS BEING EXTREMELY NICE, HELPFUL, COOPERATIVE (ESPECIALLY PLATTSBURGH CROSSING). HARPER

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